

SAMUEL BLAIR TODD  
(Cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln)  
Peculiar, correspondence, clippings, photographs  
and etc. compiled by M.L. Hauser of Peoria, Illinois.

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DRAWER 2 TODD RELATIVES



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# Todd Family

## Samuel Blair Todd

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Dec. 7, 1939.

Mr. Moses Hutchinson,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:-

I am told that you may remember or know  
something about,

about 1870 to 1900; Samuel B. Todd, who lived at Chillicothe  
Dr. Lewis B. Kay, who lived there in the  
1870s.

If you do, and will tell me as much as  
possible, I shall be very grateful.

Yours sincerely,

M.L.Houser.

Dec. 7, 1939.

Mr. Frank Oliver,  
Clay Stre t,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

Dear Mr. Oliver:-

Some one -- Mr. Gunby I believe -- told me that  
you might remember, or know something about,

Samuel B. Todd, who lived at Chillicothe about  
1870 to 1900, and

Dr. Lewis B. Kay, who lived there, or near there,  
about 1870.

If you know something of either or both of these  
men and will tell m. as much as possible, I shall be very grateful.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.

Dec. 7, 1939.

Miss Feye L. Stewart,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

My dear Miss Stewart:-

I wish to thank you, in this way, for the courtesy and kindness you showed me the other day.

Mrs. Reynolds has promised to search the county histories, newspaper files, and county records, to see if either Samuel B. Todd or Dr. Lewis B. Kay owned real estate or received other mention.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a Lincoln brochure which may, or may not, be of interest to you.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.



Dec. 7, 1939.

Miss Erlene Muder,  
Office "Spectator,"  
Palmyra, Mo.

Dear Miss Muder:-

Under separate cover, I am sending you two pamphlets in which I hope you will find something of interest. You might give one of them to Miss Terrill -- if she cares for it.

No doubt you can find in the County Recorder's office what lands Samuel B. Todd owned. Mrs. Fulton thought they were called Lemon or Lemmon and Dave White farms -- eighty years ago.

I am particularly anxious to know if the files of the local papers, at some time during the Civil War, contains an account of Samuel B. Todd going to Washington to secure a pardon, and the release, of Dr. Lewis B. Kay, his brother-in-law. Tradition has it that Lincoln granted the pardon, no doubt on Dr. Kay signing an oath.

I wonder if there was another paper at Palmyra during the war. Have an impression there was and that it was Federal in sympathies.

Anything you find about S. B. Todd -- in County History, files of the newspapers, or from people -- will be of interest.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.

Dec. 7, 1939.

Mr. W. J. Gunby,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

Dear Mr. Gunby:-

I wish to thank you for the courtesy which you showed me the other day, and say that I am writing to the people you mentioned.

Mrs. Reynolds, who ~~Reynolds~~ work in your Public Library, has agreed to try to ascertain at your County Recorder office if Samuel B. Todd or Dr. Lewis B. Kay owned real estate there.

I trust when I am in your nice little city again I may have the pleasure of meeting you.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.



Dec. 7, 1939.

Mrs. Gilbert H. Reynolds,  
1025 Locust St.,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

My dear Mrs. Reynolds:-

To confirm our conversation, I wish, at your leisure, you would search your county histories and newspaper files to see if you can get any information about Samuel B. Todd, who lived there about 1870 to 1903, and Dr. Lewis B. Fay, who lived there about 1970. Should be particularly glad if you could find an obituary of Todd who died about 1900, possibly a little later.

Agreeable to the suggestion of Mr. W. J. Gunby, Abstractor, I am writing to the following:

Mr. Frank Oliver  
Mr. Moses Hutchinson  
Miss Feye L. Stewart

If there is a party there by the name of Mr. Fred Cornue, I wish you would make inquiries of him. Mr. English, Græcer, may be able and willing to give you some leads.

I presume you can find out at the County Recorder's office if either of those men owned real estate in city or country.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a brochure which may be of some interest.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.

March 30, 1940.

Miss Erlene Muler,  
Palmyra, Mo.

Dear Miss Muler:-

I was agreeably surprised to find S. Blair Todd so well spoken of at Palmyra because I got an impression that he was not remembered at Chillicothe as entirely a "thoroughbred." Perhaps I was mistaken. All I know of his ancestors and daughter is very much in his favor.

His daughter claimed that he was a "Southern sympathizer" but not a "Guerrilla."

Seems to me you forgot one important thing -- your bill. Please send it to me.

Under separate cover I am sending you an article which was accepted by "The National Republic." You may get a grin out of it.

Thank you for your intelligent cooperation, and believe me,

Yours very truly,

April 2, 1940.

Mrs. Gilbert S. Reynolds,  
1025 Locust St.,  
Chillicothe, Mo.

My dear Mrs. Reynolds:-

Not having heard from you since my letter of December 7, I am wondering if you found out anything regarding S. B. Todd or Lewis B. Fay.

Perhaps conditions are such that you have found it inconvenient to give the subject attention.

Please advise me.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser,  
Box 55,  
Peoria, Ill.

5125 SWOPE PARKWAY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

M. L. - My Dear - Good Stephen; -

Around the middle of December I mailed you a package of "Printed Matter" containing old photos & clippings - and a few lines under separate cover which I hope reached you safely -

I had gotten these things together to send when I received the shocking news of my most dearly beloved sister's fatal street-car accident in Denver. Oh, the shock was terrible - as I was not well and not able to stand it - but I am doing my intelligent best to overcome it and must "carry on".

I am so proud of the copy of the Lincoln Herald - October 1939 - I love "The Houser Cabin - The Life Quest of M. L. Houser" by R. L. Lincoln - and Dr. M. L.'s picture - the best print picture I ever saw - and I sure do treasure it - and the pen-portrait. I thank you - and hope they "will see" to it that a life-size portrait - like the printed copy will be placed in the Lincoln Memorial University - Harrogate, Tennessee.

I am so proud of my nice nephew and know "Dick" does

5125 SWOPE PARKWAY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

herself proud as hostess on every occasion.

"Thanks a million" for the splendid picture of my "Cousin Alie" you so kindly inclosed for my special care. I received a lovely note from Dick on Christmas Stationery and thanks to her. I wrote Margaret - Mrs. Nicholson - about sending you the first & last pictures of mine which she will do when she can get them out of storage. as she, no doubt, has written you.

I would love to send her this copy of Lincoln Herald to "Read & Return" but am afraid to risk it in the mail. I wonder if my nice nephew could send me another copy - if I should lose this - please answer at once - for I would love for them - all of Miami friends - to see this. It has been "the rounds" here and all so pleased to have seen you - especially "Sunt Lucie".

Your coming was such a happy surprise - but too short a visit. I have been going back on memory's road to old Palmyra ever since you were here. I wish I could tell you all you would like to know.



How I wish you had known my father - he sure could have told you some thrilling - true stories of the war. <sup>W</sup> of many Todd Lincoln. personal things that have never been given to the world. just what you would like to know. Now - I will try to answer your questions. I do not know exact date of my father's trip to Washington D.C. but would judge it was in 1862 - or 3.

The "Todd Spring" north of Palmyra - across the North River was not named for my father as there was a Todd - no relation - who lived, upon the hill above the spring, in a large, red brick house with green window shutters (a palatial residence for that time) and we always passed this as we went to town and to school - which was a little red-brick house (one room) not far from the Todd home, across a narrow road that came down on the right hand side and into the main road going to town. I remember this distinctly. On the other side of the road - across from the Todd house - set back a distance from the road - was the home of "Uncle Jimmy Redd" - a large red-brick - with green shutters - "Uncle Jimmy" had a brother John H. Redd - living in Palmyra - I think he was a lawyer.



5125 SWOPE PARKWAY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

His children were in the same Sunday School with us for we always went every Sunday to the "Campbellite Church" in town (my mother's church) (my father was not a church-man but a good man, as you can see from the photo.) He lived farther out from town than the Reed farm - I think they used to call it "four miles".

Before the war we lived in a large white house green shutters - set "way-back" from the Road - fenced in - with a big red gate for entrance - a long avenue led up to the stile in front of the front yard - in front of the house - To the left was a drive-way - thru another gate into the side yard and back by the barns & cabins -

I think this was known as the "Kemmon's Place" when my father bought in 1856 - when he brought his horses from Lexington, Ky.

I remember the negroes & the horses - the orchards and the straw-berry bed - the flower-garden - & the mulberry tree - the milk-house in the well - & the grind-stone in the back yard where they sharpened the butcher-knives - & an Ash-hopper in the back yard where dripped the lye for making soap - etc. etc.

After the war we moved to the "Dave White" place, if I remember correctly which was a short distance from the "Kemmon Place".

Then we moved to Chillicothe, Missouri in the Fall of 1870.

my mother passed away in the spring of 1875.

I went thru the schools there & graduated June 1878 - began

teaching in September 1878 - taught twelve years in the same

room - was elected to Kansas City School but didn't go as  
the clipping from Chillicothe paper told you - was re-elected  
for K.C. - but in the meantime had the care of a little mother-

less boy - six years old - I would not - could not leave him -

reared - educated - & gave him to "Uncle Sam" - world war -

Came home - was in the Ok! Game - was drowned in little  
river in Arkansas - after 22 years of "mothering" -

I hope you are not worn to a frazzle - but that's that.

Let me hear from this & the others, too - please.

I am hoping to get a copy of the old Daguerreotype - my first picture

& the last I had taken before I came in here the Newton Home -  
Love to you both - Aunt Anne -



MRS. J. B. NICHOLSON  
826 SOUTH WEST 6TH STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Dear Mr. Hansen:-

Thank you so much for your fine letter - And - we feel that we have made a new friend - through our dear Mrs. Fulton and Lincoln.

I am celebrating our hero's birthday today - in writing to you. It was such a treat to receive your booklet, and - to get acquainted with you through your photograph.

You are entirely <sup>too</sup> modest. We know from Mrs. Fulton that you are deserving of every good word one can say.

MRS. J. B. NICHOLSON  
826 SOUTH WEST 6TH STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Mr Nicholson reads every  
article on Lincoln - so you  
two would have a great  
deal in common.

Thank you again,  
and with best wishes from  
Mr Nicholson and my self.

Sincerely  
Margaret B. Nicholson

February 12<sup>th</sup> 1940.

MRS. J. B. NICHOLSON  
826 SOUTH WEST 6TH STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Dear Mr. Honder:—

We are so very sorry that we can not send Mrs. Fulton's pictures to you. They are in storage in K.C. I am here for my health, and, last June Mr. Nicholson dismantled our home, and, put ~~our~~ furniture in storage. He had no idea where they are.

Mrs. Fulton is such a grand character, and, has been a mother to me. A real madonna

Mr. & Mrs. David Norton of your town, are very dear friends of mine.

Sincerely  
Margaret Nicholson







Feb. 19.

Dear Mr. Houser:

The Official Magazine  
Salvation Army for Feb. has a  
fine picture of Lincoln on the  
cover. ~~Entitled~~ <sup>entitled</sup> this picture  
a poem by Thomas Craig Clark.  
Have you seen it? I have the  
picture, but sent the poem to  
a girl - herd Clark & sister -  
together, at Chillicothe, Mo.,  
who was 7, on Lincoln's Birth-  
day. + in this same No. (Feb.)  
is a splendid picture  
entitled "Abraham Lincoln's Death -  
Bed". I have since seen that  
this death-bed picture is the  
work of Littlefield, I believe.  
If you desire these pictures  
let me know + I will send  
them to you. I am not keeping  
like to read them. (over)

would it be asking too much if you could  
send these MSS. relations to my wife, + my father  
to give to my own, + my sister, + my  
me. Friends who know my relations could they would





Feb. 12, 1941, commenced this "Biographical  
Cpl. John Calhoun Kay" <sup>sketch</sup>.

Cpl. John O. Kay" was born in  
Old Ky. When the Meadows  
grass was blue... about year  
1830. He served his country  
(U.S.) in War with Mexico. &  
in battle so the story was told  
to us - (his Kings College) with  
Santa Anna when U.S. forces  
defeated & captured him  
& appropriated his Wooden Leg  
which was placed in Museum  
at Washington City where it is  
yet, no doubt....

Before the Civil War, he came  
to Palmyra Mo. & lived & was  
visited with his Sister Mrs.  
Sallie Kay Todd & her husband  
Samuel Blair.

He entered the Confederate Service  
& was several times taken prisoner.  
etc.

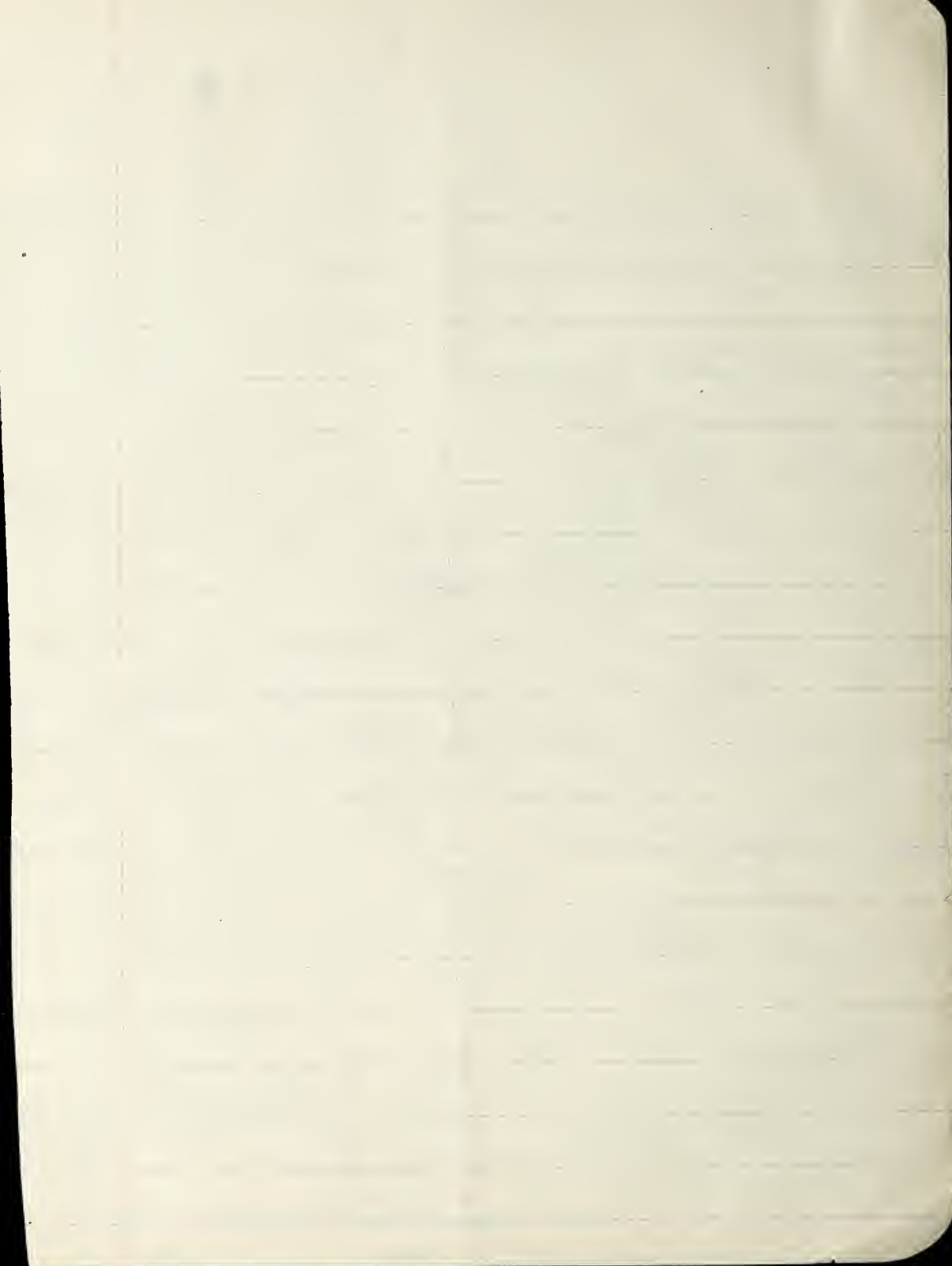
At such times his Brother-in-law  
Saml B. Todd would go to Wash-  
ington City, to engage Post Lin-  
coln to intercede for him.

(Post Lincoln having married  
Mary Todd, 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of S. B. Todd)  
Post Lincoln was always very  
kind & gave Mr. Todd the official  
card to present to Stanton (Secy  
War) which card read "See  
the Prisoner & hear his story" &  
this always effected the  
Prisoner's release. Not many  
years ago, I made several  
of these cards.

Previous to Civil War Col. J. C. K.  
contributed humorous articles to  
"Columbian Rural World," a  
St. Louis Newspaper (is my re-  
collection). A Ballon project  
was instituted about this time  
but the promoters could find only



a fun willing to risk a  
 sky party at that time -  
 my uncle John said he was  
 not afraid to "sail up & around  
 the Moon" & did so. & the  
 Balloon came down on the  
banks of our father's Docters  
 is my recollection of the story  
 told us of this air party.  
 & from then on, my uncle's form  
 name (or pseudonym) was  
 Balloon. I have read articles  
 in the Scrap-Book, compiled  
 by my Father entitled "Balloon".  
 In fact, I preserved for many  
 years a box, or two from that  
 Scrap-Book but think I gave  
 them to your father. For  
 the reason I was facing the  
 Sunset of Life & after my  
 demised struggles & melibid-  
 uals would be uninterested in  
 incidents of life of my uncle -  
 until several yrs. ago I had a  
 splendid photograph of my uncle  
 in his 80th birthday. I had  
 but looking for it one day I could not  
 find it & was torn.



{ Feb. 12, 1941 - commenced  
this "Biographical" sketch, of  
Dr. Lewis Bryan Kay - (1

Doctor Lewis Bryan Kay, half-brother  
to Col. John Calhoun Kay, & their  
sister Mrs. Sallie Kay Todd, was b.  
in, or near, Lexington, Ky. (about  
the yr. 1838.) He enlisted as Sur-  
geon with Confederate forces,  
in civil war. Prior to that time  
& after, he lived, or visited, with  
his sister Mrs. Sallie Kay Todd,  
& her husband, Samuel Blair,  
at their home, near Palmyra,  
Mo. He, as well as his bro. Col.  
John C. Kay, was taken  
prisoner during his service  
(civil war) & confined (as  
nearly as I can remember)  
at Fort Donaldson if there was  
such a prison at that time.  
{ I had a picture of him in his  
Confederate uniform, for



L. B. K.

the back of that picture was  
written by my Father, the  
name of the prison + name  
of the commander, under whom  
he served. I am not sure  
but I believe it was Morgan.  
Dr. Kay was two or 3 times  
taken prisoner, + his brother  
in-law, S. B. Todd went to  
Washington, D. C. + appeared  
to Pres Lincoln, who gave  
him the necessary card to  
present to Stanton. They got  
+ Dr. Kay's release, like with  
his brother's, John C. Kay was  
immediately effected. I  
have seen these cards  
(bearing Lincoln's Autograph)  
many a time during my girl  
hood. (+ young ladyhood).  
Dr. Kay lived for several yrs. in Phila  
delphia. He was a very kind man, + my parents

Feb. 21.

(1)

Some one said, "A Roman cannot write a letter without adding a post-script." After mentioning to you that I had thought best to dispose of all my loved books, (except a few,) some of these being; first, my loved "Museum" - pieces of <sup>English</sup> ~~English~~ <sup>literature</sup> ~~literature~~ - Dante's *Inferno*, <sup>Shakespeare's</sup> ~~Shakespeare's~~ <sup>poems</sup> ~~poems~~, Hugo's *Les Misérables* - & others. Robert Browning's *Practical Works* & in fact each & every one of the Old Eng. Masters - & coming down the Ages, our loved American Poets & writers. I love & admire each of these for they "embody" whether "veiled" or apparent, the philosophy of life. Reincarnation & its Twin Law, Karma, or Retribution, Justice, or Nemesis... But, previous to these writers, I loved & revere the "ancient" German Writers, Goethe, Wagner, and

P.S.  
About the time you mentioned & mailed letter to me I was over a cold. (Maurice at my side) I was very tired & in hospital some of the time - I was from that, & could see, read, or write anything - but I am now better.



Schiller rolls in. One of my favorite quotations, from Goethe, "wouldst live a symphony life, then forget not over what is past & gone, but live each day as if thy life were just begun!" ... Have you read "A Creed" by John Massfield, Poet-Laurinate of Eng. some years ago. I believe deceased now. This Creed is an expression of my Creed & is, really a Wisdom Religion in itself. As the old negro said it is my "Ferdigion". the Religion of Nature's Law. toward Humanity. a complete expression of Brotherhood &c. ....

Very sincerely I would be glad to meet you to talk with you. do you ever come to St. Louis? I have told you more no doubt, of my family & my own inclinations & aspirations, than you care to hear. Again I apologise for not writing. I am in a half-hazard manner, on side of my life for a writing-desk, some of things away from cold North Windows. -

Cordially S. T. B

1881. Have written me a long letter on my old home - "The Old South" a lecture by Dr. H. H. H. a very excellent one. I have read it & it is a very good one. I have read it & it is a very good one. I have read it & it is a very good one.



Palmyra, Mo.  
March 29, 1940

Dr. M. L. Houser  
Box 55  
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Dr. Houser:

Under separate cover I am sending the material in regard to the life of S. Blair Todd in Marion county, gathered during my research. I hope this will be of value to you.

I am sorry to report that I could find no trace of the subject's visit to Washington, D. C., to obtain the release of Dr. Kay. The Spectator files reveal no such account. A Union newspaper, "The Courier", was published here during the Civil war, but the files were destroyed in a fire about 1890, according to information obtained from the Hannibal Courier-Post, its offspring.

If you wish more detail on some of the references indicated, I shall be glad to accomodate you. The notations on Mrs. Lincoln and her family were noted as I scanned through the files. These were not copied verbatim since I was not assured of their value to you.

My time totals about 31 hours, according to my records, which at 50 cents per hour, as agreed, totals \$15.50, due. Some of my interviews were made casually and were so interesting, the time element was forgotten.

Since the weather has moderated, I shall make a trip north to take pictures of the two homes mentioned. Extreme weather, bad

roads, etc., have prevented an earlier completion of this work.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to engage in this most entertaining work, and I shall be glad to assist you at any time in the future.

Very truly yours,

V. Erlene Muder  
V. Erlene Muder

April 1, 1940.

Dear Miss Muder:-

I take pleasure in sending you my check for \$15.50. Seems to me your work was splendidly done. No doubt your newspaper work has given you practice in persistence, resourcefulness, and tactfulness.

If it should develop sometime that I wished you to run out to Kansas City or some other place for a few days, all necessary expenses paid, might you be able to arrange it, perhaps as something of a vacation, compensation for your working time to be the same?

Shall be glad to get the pictures mentioned, also a really good one of the monument.

I await your reply, and remain,

Very sincerely,

Miss Erlene Muder,  
Palmyra, Mo.

M. L.

Palmyra Whig, March 19, 1857

#### FINE STOCK

We are always glad to notice the introduction of fine stock into the country, and deem it proper in this place to speak of a number of cattle and sheep recently brought here from Fayette County, Kentucky, by Messrs. Todd and Kay. Their present stock of cattle consists of cows, calves, and young bulls, 15 in all, among which is a splendid animal (aged Durham) Prince Albert. The cows and calves are such as will do credit to any country, and in all probability will be dangerous competitors at our Annual Fair. These gentlemen also brought with them a number of fine sheep of the Cotwold breed which in point of size, quality of wool, etc., cannot be surpassed. We also observed a fine large roan stallion of Copperbottom stock, highly esteemed both in this State and Kentucky. We trust these enterprising gentlemen will be well satisfied with their Missouri home; and have every reason to believe that as a stock country, they will find this superior to Kentucky.

(NOTE--S. Blair Todd must certainly have impressed the editor, for the above story has no parallel in 14 years of files. Mention of local incidents or personalities outside of a sensational murder or fire, and political happenings, were practically unknown in the local newspaper of that day which was devoted to national and international news and advertising, of course.)



Palmyra Whig, March 26, 1857

J.C. Kay and Co.'s superb stallion, Toronto, whose arrival here from Kentucky we noticed in our last paper, will make the present season in this county, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column. This is one of Kentucky's best stallions as evidence of which, for several successive years he received the prize at the horse exhibitions in Louisville. A fine opportunity is now offered to breeders to improve their stocks. Our farmers should by all means call and see Toronto.

(Advertisement in March 26, 1857 issue)

#### THE PRIZE STALLION TORONTO

Familiarly known as Capt. Beay will stand the present season at the farm of S. B. Todd, (formerly Joseph McPheeters, Esq.,) four miles north of Palmyra on the road leading to Quincy.

(Description of stallion followed)

Signed

J. Calhoun Kay and Co.

October 22, 1857: Palmyra Whig

(List of premiums of the 5th annual Marion County Fair)

Best Specimen Silk Embroidery ( 7 entries) Mrs. S. B. Todd,  
2nd prize.

Cow Calf under 1 year (3 entries), premium. S. Blair Todd.

Best lot of calves not less than 5 raised by one person:

S. B. Todd, premium.

Jennett, 3 years old and upward (3 entries): Nariah Todd,  
premium.



October 21, 1858: Palmyra Whig

(Contained in the premium list from the Marion County Fair)

S. Blair Todd, certificate award on Buck Lamb under 12 months old.

S. Blair Todd, certificate on Fatted Mutton.

S. Blair Todd, certificate on Bull under 1 year.

S. Blair Todd, 1st prize, \$10, on "Toronto" in class, Best Saddle Stallion 4 years old or over.

S. Blair Todd, 1st prize, \$10, on Best Blooded Mare, 4 years old or over.

March 24, 1859: Palmyra Whig

We refer our farmers and stockgrowers to the advertisement of the fine premium horse Toronto. This is decidedly one of the finest horses in the West, and stock raisers would find it to their advantage to breed him.

(Advertisement in same issue was signed this time by S. Blair Todd and George Todd. A son of George Todd lives in Marion county but in an interview he recalled nothing about the partnership nor did he remember anything concerning S. Blair Todd, whom he said was not related to him.)

June 15, 1866: Palmyra Spectator

Notice of meeting, June 9, of Liberty Club (or Andrew Johnson club) of Fabius community, signed by president and S. B. Todd as one of the secretaries. In the notice S. Blair Todd was named as a member of a committee to select a delegate to the State convention to be held in St. Louis, July 3.

June 22, 1866:

S. Blair Todd signed as one of the promoters of a tournament, funds from which were to be used for "relief of sufferers in the South".

June 15, 1866: Palmyra Spectator

Notice of Liberty Club(advocating Andrew Johnson), signed by president and S. B. Todd as one of the secretaries. He was appointed on a committee to select a delegate to the State convention in St. Louis, July 3.

Palmyra Spectator, September 9, 1870 and September 16, 1870 issues.

--Advertisement.

PUBLIC SALE! PUBLIC SALE!

I will on Wednesday, the 21st day of September, 1870, at my residence, four miles north of Palmyra, expose to the highest bidder, at public auction, at 10 o'clock, a.m., the following property to wit:

One aged gelding; two aged Mares; one of them a safe reliable harness mare; one three-year old sorrel mare, large and fine, works well and very gentle; one brown mare colt; two mules, two years old; two full-blooded milch cows superior milkers; one yearling heifer; one thoroughbred bull; one yearling steer; one two-year-old steer, large and fine; one Roan Bull; one year old, thoroughbred; two extra fine bull calves, blood reds by thoroughbred bulls, these calves are extra fine; five head of extra Southdown and Cotswold Ewes, very fat; one yearling Southdown Buck; 13 fat hogs; 10 extra fine Chester White gelts by thoroughbred Chester boars; one 2-horse wagon and harness; one double plow; two single plows; two double shovels; one Butterfly Harrow; Plow Gear; one slide and sleigh; 15 acres of corn; household and kitchen furniture and many other articles too tedious to mention.

TERMS--A credit of four months on all sums of \$20 upwards, the purchasers giving notes with approved security, bearing 10 per cent interest from date, under that sum cash in hand. None of the property advertised will be sold at private sale, but sold publicly as advertised. Sale positive.

S. BLAIR TORD

Thomas E. Hatcher, Auctioneer

According to the files in the Recorder's office, Marion County Courthouse, Palmyra, Missouri:

On August 5, 1856, S. B. Todd of Fayette County, Ky., purchased from Joseph McPheeters, for the sum of \$5,495.00, 157 and 15/100 acres of land described as the northeast quarter of section two, township fifty-eight, range six west.

Of the above amount, part was paid in cash with the remainder being arranged by a mortgage for \$2,747.50, taken by McPheeters. This was paid in full with a later debt, March 18, 1863.

February 2, 1861, another mortgage was put on the above described real estate and two slaves, "a woman, Mary, aged about 38 years, and a girl, Susan, 14, for the sum of \$684.35". The money was borrowed from Walker Louthan (wealthy Palmyran) and was paid in full in March, 1863.

The farm was again mortgaged by Samuel B. Todd and Sallie K. Todd, his wife, on March 18, 1863, this time for \$3,000, borrowed from Robert McIntyre of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, the time for final payment being set for four years hence. This debt was paid in full by May 25, 1866.

June 1, 1865, the State of Missouri sold the property to R. M. Rhoades for taxes (\$33.98), due for the year 1859.

March 21, 1866, R. M. Rhoades deeded the property to George Lemmons, and on the following day an indenture was made between Samuel B. Todd and Sallie K. Todd, his wife, and George W. Lemmons, the land being sold to the latter for \$8,500.

The farm was bought from George Lemmons and his wife, Alyzan B. Lemmons, by William Campbell of New Orleans, La., in 1867. Campbell sold it to Joseph Bross whose son owned it until recent years when the son, P. A. Bross, lost it, and it is now in the hands of the Federal Land bank.



Information from the files in the Recorder's office, Marion county  
Courthouse, Palmyra, Mo.--2

May 14, 1868, an indenture is recorded, made between William H. Lee and Sarah C. Lee, his wife, and Samuel B. Todd, showing the purchase of an 80-acre tract of land described as the east one-half of the southeast quarter of section thirty-five, township fifty-nine, range six, west, consideration \$4,800.

The Todds sold this property to Edward G. Moore on August 3, 1870, for the sum of \$5,600.

(This is the last record of land transactions found in the name of Samuel Blair Todd.)

The property is now owned by E. G. and H. B. Young.

(Note: The first property owned by S. B. Todd was about four miles north of Palmyra on the road to Quincy (U.S. Highway #61), and the second, the 80-acre tract, adjoined it on the north. As to the slaves mentioned, persons who knew the family say his negroes were not numerous, that perhaps the two mortgaged were the only ones he possessed. My previous mention of a farm 10 miles from Palmyra was erroneous, since the description was not correct on the record, and a check revealed it to be the second property purchased.)



## INTERVIEWS

Interviews have not proved especially fruitful. One old timer sent me to another, with each saying practically the same thing: "I remember the name, but I was too young when he lived here to know much about him".

However, a Mr. Dan Kern, aged 87, told of going to a rural school in Fabius community with the four Todd children whom he named as Jim, Mayme, Lucy and Sallie. (He was a bit hazy about the last name.) Mr. Kern said, "Like all those Kentuckians, Blair Todd enjoyed life and so did his horses". When I questioned him about the Kay release, he told me that in those days the elders discussed topics of that type among themselves and the children knew little concerning such activities. He had not heard of the incident. In regard to the character of S. B. Todd, Mr. Kern summed it up in one word, saying, "He was a THOROUGH-BRED".

Anderson Yeager, a Palmyra businessman, who was reared in Fabius community and whose father was a friend of Todd said he remembered no specific incidents, but from things his father had told him he had the impression that Blair Todd had a "vivid personality" and was "very original".

A retired minister who was nine years old when the Todd family left this community says he recalls hearing others mention such a man as being a very "sporty" fellow who loved and rode good horses and was fond of his liquor.

### THE FIGHT AT MONROE CITY

The war clouds hovering over Northeast Missouri grew blacker and blacker, and the rumblings of the battle-thunder louder and louder, and at last the storm broke.

Hon. Thomas A. Harris, the Representative of this county in the Legislature, had been appointed brigadier general in the Missouri State Guard by Gov. Jackson, under the Military bill, and had established his headquarters, first at Paris, and next at Florida, Monroe county, whither all the companies of the State Guard in this district or division (the 2nd) were ordered to repair. About the 16th of June, (1861), Capt. R. E. Dunn's company, of near Philadelphia, this county, took up the line of march for this rendezvous. Capt. Dunn's men were well organized, disciplined and drilled. They were uniformed and armed with muskets purchased the previous fall from the Palmyra military company, and presented a fine, soldierly appearance. Arriving at Paris, the men from Marion were mistaken for Federal troops, and it is said quite a panic and fright ensued among Harris and his men.

The State Guard companies flocked to Gen. Harris in such numbers that by the 5th of July he had probably 500 men in his camp near Florida. By their scouts and spies the Federal military commanders were informed of his doings, and Col. Chester Harding, at At. Louis, under authority from Gen. Lyon, ordered Col. Smith of the Illinois 16th to march upon him and his fellow secessionists and break up their camp. Smith had himself reinforced at Palmyra by four companies of the 3d Iowa, one company of the Hannibal Home Guards, a piece of artillery, a six pounder, and got ready for the work.

On Monday evening, July 8, Col. Smith marched from Palmyra against Tom Harris. His force consisted of companies A, F, H, and K of the 3d Iowa Infantry; companies F. and H of the 16th Illinois, Capt. Loomis' company of the Hannibal Home Guards, the six-pounder cannon--in all about 500 men, or not more than 600. The expedition went per rail to Monroe city, where it arrived in an hour and disembarked. It was intended to make a night march on Florida, about 12 miles a little west of south of Monroe, and attack Harris' camp at daylight, but a severe storm coming up prevented this plan--as perhaps it should not have done.

Tuesday morning (after his men had informed half the people of their destination), Col. Smith, with his entire command, not leaving even a guard at Monroe city to protect the town, the train and his store of provision and ammunition, set out towards Florida to encounter Gen. Harris. As Monroe City is situated in the midst of an extensive prairie, which stretches miles away in all directions, and as the troops were all infantry and marched slowly, their progress could be noted for hours and ample preparations made on the part of the secessionists to receive them, especially as ten hours' notice had been given of their approach.



## FIGHT AT MONROE CITY--2

Passing out of the prairie, through the "Swinkey hills," the Federal troops reached the farm of Robert Hagar, three or four miles north of Florida. Here, in the thick timber and brush, and on the top of an eminence known as Hagar's hill, they encountered perhaps 50 mounted secessionists, under Capt. Clay Price, who had been sent out by Gen Harris to reconnoiter. There at once, and without warning, opened fire from their ambush at close range, severely wounding Capt. McAllister and two privates of the 16th Illinois, slightly wounding a private of the 3d Iowa, and killing the horse under Adj. Woodall, of the 16th. The fire was returned and the Missourians retreated, leaving one man mortally wounded, and perhaps half a dozen horses. This affair took place about four o'clock in the afternoon. Not caring to go on, and not daring to retreat through certain bodies of timber in the night on his way back to Monroe, Col. Smith went into camp on Hagar's farm, near the scene of the fight.

During the afternoon and night of the 9th, Co. Smith learned that he had stirred up a hornets' nest, and that the secessionists were swarming all about him,--that they had gotten in his rear and were playing havoc at Monroe City, and that their numbers were constantly increasing. Early on Wednesday morning, the 10th, he began his retreat to Monroe City. On the "Swinkey hills" his advance guard was attacked but no serious damage done. Emerging from the timber north of "Swinkey," or Elizabethtown, and coming in sight of Monroe, the Federals discovered the station house, out buildings, six passenger coaches and ten or a dozen freight cars in flames. The Missourians, Capt. Owen's company, could be seen a mile or two away to the left or west watching the fire and the Federals. Col. Smith opened on them with his cannon and fired half a dozen or more round shots at them, one of which it is said killed a horse.

The station house and train had been fired by about 100 mounted secessionists under command of Capt. John L. Owen, of Warren township in this county. The value of the cars destroyed was placed by the railroad company at \$22,000; the station house and contents, aside from the government stores, \$18,000. The value of government property taken and destroyed was considerable. The same morning the train from Hannibal was fired on a few miles east of Monroe, it is said by some of Capt. Owen's men and by his orders. The engineer was slightly wounded by a rifle ball in the arm.

Reaching the town and finding himself surrounded, Col. Smith marched his men into a fine large two-story brick academy building in the place, known as the Seminary, took full possession of it and the grounds adjoining, around which he began throwing up breastworks, having dispatched a messenger to the nearest telegraph office to ask for reinforcements.

Meantime the greatest excitement had arisen in the surrounding country. The news that 500 or 600 Yankees were "holed up" or "treed" at Monroe spread like wildfire. Hundreds of persons living within ten or twelve miles of the scene, roused by the messengers that went galloping over the country by order of Gen. Harris, mounted horses and rode to the "battle", some actuated by mere curiosity, others

### FIGHT AT MONROE CITY--3

determined to participate in the fight. By noon of Wednesday Gen. Harris had collected around him probably 1,000 effective men, who were reasonably well armed, and eager to take a pop at the cooped-up Federals. His skirmishers crawled up as close to the academy building as they dared, and fired away at the windows and breastworks very briskly, with but little effect, however. The Union troops returned the fire at every good opportunity. The main portion of Harris' forces were at a safe distance, watching their enemies and taking pains that they should not escape.

The night of the 10th Gen. Harris sent off for a cannon, the nine-pounder which had been cast by Cleaver & Mitchell, of Hannibal, for Drescher's artillery company, and which was then hidden under a haystack on THE FARM OF BLAIR TODD, A FEW MILES NORTH OF PALMYRA. The messengers dispatched for it were George W. Brashears and George Milton, of Owen's company, who had assisted in hiding the piece, as well as another, a six-pounder, and a lot of balls. The six pounder and the balls were under a pile of cordwood west of Palmyra. The six-pounder was not mounted. The nine-pounder was serviceable, and with this Gen. Harris hoped to compel the Federals to surrender, or else batter down the building and tumble the walls about their ears. That night a close watch was kept on the besieged that they did not make either a bold sortie or a stealthy attempt at escape.

Thursday, the 14th, the cannon came, to the great delight of the secessionists, and the bombardment began about 1 o'clock. A stranger, from Ohio, was chief gunner. There were only a few nine-pound balls, however, and these were soon shot away. Nothing was then left for use but the smaller balls, and artillery practice with six-pound balls from a nine-pound gun is not certain to be accurate. Some amusing instances were narrated of the cannonading by Capt. Kneisley's gun. It was said that the only safe place within its range when it was discharged was immediately in front of it! One shot, it is stated, struck in the road 30 feet from the muzzle of the gun and ricocheted over to the left a quarter of a mile, struck a blacksmith shop and dispersed a crowd of secessionists, who fled in dismay, declaring that they could not stand it to be fired on by their own men and the Yankees took! The academy was struck but a few times and no serious damage done. One shot struck the casing of a window in the upper story, damaging the wall and window and passing on through two brick partitions, knocking holes ten inches in diameter, and finally falling on the floor. Another passed through a door and one partition wall in the lower story; a third struck the stone foundation. One shot passed through the breastwork, now six feet high, but did no injury.

Meanwhile the number of Missourians gathered around had increased to 1,200 or 1,500, many of whom were not warriors pro tem., but mere spectators, who had come to see "the fun". Even ladies and children had ridden up in carriages and wagons and seated in their conveyances, under a parasol or umbrella, watched the "battle" the first perhaps ever graced by the presence as spectators of the fair sex. out of deference to whose sensibilities, it is to be presumed, the occasion was made as bloodless as possible. It was a sort of picnic, or holiday, and, while it lasted nothing occurred to mar the enjoyment of the occasion. Not a man was killed or badly wounded on either side, by an enemy's ball.



Mention made of the Lincoln family, noted in the files of the Palmyra Whig and Palmyra Spectator:

April 8, 1864: An account of the arrest of Lincoln's cousins, W.F. Hanks of Charleston and S. G. Hanks of Big Creek. In commenting, the Springfield Register ( from which the article was copied) says, "As it will never do for the Royal family to suffer, we shall look for a general amnesty proclamation from his majesty at Washington in this case. The "wayward cousins" may be extricated from their predicament by some means." The two men were captured in the Cole county war.

April 22, 1864: An article commenting of Mrs. J. Todd White, relative of Mrs. Lincoln, abusing her pass by carrying contraband goods and giving comfort to the enemy. She is termed, "a rebel spy and sympathizer" by the "World", from which the article was copied.

June 30, 1865: Captain Todd of the rebel army, and the brother of Mrs. Lincoln, arrived in New Orleans on the 25th. He had his wife and three children with him.

March 31, 1865: Mrs. Lincoln's indignation at admitting negroes to the White House, noted in an article.

October 18, 1867: An article taken from the New York World of October 3, 1867, reveals a scandal concerning Mrs. Lincoln's sale of her clothing and jewelry. It includes letters written by her to Mr. Brady of New York and the property for sale, itemized. In the October 25 issue of the Spectator, comments are printed from

MENTION OF LINCOLN FAMILY--2

several newspapers and in one she is accused of insanity.

November 15, 1867: A description of Mrs. Lincoln's "termagancy", reprinted from the Philadelphia telegraph.

January 15, 1864: Mention of Mrs. Lincoln's brother-in-law, General Helm, being killed in the battle of Chickamauga. The account also names her stepmother, Mrs. R. S. Todd, and <sup>a</sup>/sister of Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. White.

From the Palmyra Spectator, June 15, 1910:

S. BLAIR TODD IS DEAD

S. Blair Todd, who for many years lived in this county, died at Chillicothe, last week. He was 80 years of age and is well remembered by many of our older citizens. He was a first cousin of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

Palmyra, Mo.  
May 23, 1940

Mr. M. L. Hauser  
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Mr. Hauser:

When I was a school "marm", my eighth grade reader had a story about a little boy who fell through the ice and was rescued because he held on "one minute longer" than his endurance provided. I often find that "holding on one minute longer" is not a losing policy. For instance, after sending you what seemed to be the sum total of my efforts in this Blair Todd research, I ran across Miss Montana Rice who gave me additional information that might prove valuable to you.

Her parents and the S. Blair Todd family were close friends. In fact, her mother was engaged to John Kay, brother of Mrs. Todd, before her marriage to Mr. Rice. However, her information about said Mr. Kay was scant as her mother never mentioned the gentleman. Miss Rice's knowledge of their relationship came from a cousin, after the death of her mother. The tale goes that "Miss Roth" broke the engagement when she learned her husband-to-be indulged in alcoholic liquor. *Miss Roth*

*see letter dated June 1935 Mrs. B.*  
For a number of years, Miss Rice corresponded with Mrs. W. E. Bement of 7379 Marietta Avenue, Maplewood, Mo., (her last address), who as you probably know, was Miss Sallie Todd, daughter of S. B. Todd. When a child, Miss Rice knew Mrs. Bement and continued correspondence through her mother's association with the Todd family.

In one of Mrs. Bement's letters, written in 1935, she mentions her two sisters, calling one Mame. She says they are located in an old ladies home in Denver, Colo. A woman from Hannibal, who is now deceased, visited a friend there and also met the Todd sister. It seems that you mentioned talking with his daughter, so perhaps you already have this information. What has transpired in the last five years, with the exception of the death of Mrs. Bement's husband, is not known by Miss Rice, whose contacts with Mrs. Bement have not been perpetuated.

According to the recollections of Miss Rice, the Blair Todd family came to Marion County with \$10,000 and left with practically nothing. They bought a valuable farm, but were not trained in management, since their previous life had apparently been cushioned with ease. They entertained their friends lavishly, although not wastefully. Possessing fine stock and good ground, their impractical handling of the farm brought about the dissolution of their "fortune".

She verified the report that they were "very well-thought-of" and described them as "ARISTOCRATIC" and typically southern, in the pre-Civil war sense of the term. Perhaps I should explain that Palmyra in the old days nourished a type of aristocracy that in the light of 1940 views, was almost ridiculous. One's entrance to this class was assured by birth in Virginia or Kentucky and, of course, a certain amount of culture. This might explain his better standing here.



When the family went to Chillicothe, they were without means and the children were forced to work.

Enclosed you will find a few stories connected with the Todd family, which Miss Rice quoted to me. Much to my disappointment, she knew nothing of the Kay incident.

I have one more source to check, and I shall send you the fruits thereof, if there is a crop, and the pictures promised. This may be another of those "I remember the name...." interviews. The man lives out of the county but I hope to be able to see him soon.

Your check arrived, and I want to thank you for same and for the prompt reply, also for the article. Interested as I am in writing, it is gratifying to know a real live author whose efforts are rewarded by return in black and white, and on slick paper, too. I enjoyed the article immensely and appreciate the ability that is incorporated within it.

I shall be delighted to go on short trips now and then, if I can be of assistance to you. Perhaps I told you that I went to school in Kansas City and lived there several years so it is almost like home to me. Occasionally I can leave my work here on Wednesday evening and remain away until Monday. It is not convenient for me to be gone the first three days of the week, as we have but a minimum of employees and vacations including publication day and the preceding rush, are unheard-of. However, any work that I can complete in four days, I am sure I can handle.

Through the Spectator, I am personally acquainted with Forrest Shoemaker, secretary of the State Historical society.

Friends of mine here, Mrs. Grace Macomber and her daughter, referred me to Miss Lydia Colby in Geneseo, Ill., who, they say, has spent a portion of her life in research work, but is now retired. They mentioned that she was related to the Todd family and that she has gone deep into family history. Perhaps you would be interested in contacting her.

I shall be glad to be of service to you whenever possible,

Very truly yours,

*Erlene Thuder*

Enc.

ACCORDING TO MISS MONTANA RICE OF PALMYRA, MO.:

A story connected with the Blair Todd family, which caused a great deal of hilarity in this Confederate-sympathizing community ran something like this:

Blair Todd wrote to Lincoln, telling of his family connections and asked if by any chance he were related to the President's wife. He is quoted as saying, "Not that I think it would be any honor, but I am merely curious".

Lincoln wrote him a personal letter telling him that Mrs. Lincoln was related to him, and of course, ignoring his inference.

(Miss Rice added that she believed this letter was still in existence and might be located through Mrs. Bement.)

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When Mrs. Todd came to this community, she shocked the staid women citizens by wearing a pink dress that was buttoned down the back in a manner which was customary only for unmarried girls to wear. Miss Rice did not know the details of this particular fashion, but for a matron of this era to appear so attired was a social defiance which caused no little whispering in the polite living rooms. Miss Rice's mother told her of this shocking conduct of Mrs. Todd, many years after the dress had probably been cast into the rag bag.

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The Todd family belonged to the Christian church which in the early days was so plain in its services that no music was allowed within its walls. As Miss Rice remembers, they were quite prominent in its membership. In speaking of Mrs. Bement as she knew her, Miss Rice said:

"The strangest thing about her is her religion." She belongs to a sect which is prevalent on the West Coast and is distinguished by belief in reincarnation. Miss Rice could not remember its title.

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## II

Mrs. Bement told Miss Rice the following story:

After the breakdown of the family fortune, Mrs. Bement taught in Chillicothe, Mo., public schools. On one occasion pictures of the school children were to be taken, including the negro pupils in the town.

Mrs. Bement told of the plans to her father who became indignant at the idea, and firmly told Mrs. Bement that he would disown any daughter of his who would lower herself by having her picture taken with negroes.

In compliance with her father's wishes, she refused to appear in the photograph, and was discharged from the school system as a result.

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June 18, 1940.

Dear Miss Muder:-

Your letter of May 28 came just when I was leaving for Commencement Exercises at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn. My very good friend, Lester O. Schriver, here, preached the baccalaureate sermon and received a degree. Rode down with Dr. Harry E. Pratt, Ex-Bec. The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Ill., and rode back with F. H. Meserve, New York, who owns \$200,000 worth of Civil War photos and negatives. Met L. E. Bullard, Chief Editorial Writer of the Boston Herald, and other distinguished people.

A cat can look at a king, and a commonplace individual can bask in the glory of talented people -- if he goes where the basking is good.

Oh, yes; Carl Sandburg delivered an address. "He writes like an angel, and talks like a poll."

Since my return I have been too busy to write.

and now come some splendid pictures.

My favorite commendation is: "You are all wool and a yard wide." But you wouldn't like that, especially the last part. The fact remains, however, that you appear to be something of a genius in research.

I believe I told you of the girl who helped me during the four years she went through college. She now has a good job with the Peoria Chamber of Commerce. Last night she and her sweetheart came out, and she rather frankly stated that her vacation comes soon AND she would like to spend some of it with us -- principally sleeping in the barrel-stave hammock. We are delighted. It appears that they expect to commit matrimony early next year.

Now, Miss Muder, I have a not-very-important official job which will keep me "snored" for some time. If you will follow up all leads -- Mrs. Bement, for instance -- and get all the additional facts you can, keeping account of your time, postage, etc., I will "rise up and call you blessed." TM&XX Please send me the items as collected. Then, sometime, we'll get together and figure it all out.

The daughter of S. Blair Todd who is my friend  
is

Mrs. Lucie Fulton,  
5125 Swope Parkway,  
Kansas City, Mo.



Miss Muder #2.

That is a home -- a very nice old-ladies' home -- and she appears -- in spite of her eighty odd years -- to rather set the social pace. If you have occasion to make any inquiries of her, you can say that you are researching for me, and it won't hurt a bit for you to tell how aristocratic her people appear to have been.

I don't mind saying that Mrs. Fulton is one of the sweetest old ladies I have ever met, and she gives one the impression that she was to the "manner born."

Possibly Mrs. Fulton, Mrs. Bement, or somebody they mention, can give the approximate date of Todd going to Washington to secure a pardon for Ray. If I can get the approximate date, I can see if there is anything official about it in the "Official Record" 129 big volumes.

I don't remember whether or not I sent you a copy of the "National Republic" which printed an article I sent them. Anyway, I will send you one under separate cover. Maybe you can get a grin out of it.

Please advise me if it will be possible for you to follow up.

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I have a section of bottom (Mississippi) land north of Quincy. If possible, when I go down there at harvest time, I'll drop down to Palmyra for a short chat.

Thank you, and believe me,

Sincerely yours,

M.L.Houser.

Palmyra, Mo.  
June 22, 1940

Mr. M. L. Houser  
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Mr. Houser

Your two pleasant letters arrived with another of your interesting articles, and fanned my enthusiasm concerning our mutual subject, S. Blair Todd. I am beginning to feel as if he were a long lost uncle, and each clue I find thrills me no end.

I am grateful for the copies of the letters you sent, as it helps me to understand my role a bit better. I am writing to Mr. Shoemaker and will follow up any tips I may run across. Your instructions will be my command.

The information you wish concerning the monument I may be able to obtain from the local U.D.C. chapter records or from one of the older members of the organization. I shall look into the matter immediately.

I am sending two leaflets which may be of use to you.

The photographs I sent were not quite what I wanted, but could unearth no others and I am not much of a photographer, although I am attempting to learn the art. Felt especially fortunate to obtain a picture of the second Todd home before it was remodeled, even though the cameraman did cut the top off of the house.

I shall be delighted to have you call when you make your trip to this part of the country.

If present plans materialize, I may go to Kansas City over the Fourth and remain a few days. In the event of such a trip, I shall run out to see Mrs. Fulton on Swope Parkway. I should like very much to have a talk with her, and with Mrs. Bement, too.

Any further instructions you may give me will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

V. Erlene Muder

June 25, 1940.

Dear Miss Muder:-

Like yourself, I doubt if Mr. Shoemaker has anything about S. B. Todd. I have Shoemaker's splendid essay, "Civil War in Northeast Missouri -- Mo. His. Rev., 1913. It is very general, carefully written, and of course has no mention of Todd -- not many other individuals.

I have "Robert Devoy" by Frank H. Sosey. Made a special trip to Palmyra to get it. Also have Mudd's "With K<sup>a</sup> Porter in Missouri."

I'm awfully afraid the Kay -- Pardon story will "blow up." Mrs. Fulton seems sure of it though; believes it happened about 1862. As she tells it Dr. Kay was a prisoner and S.B.T went to Washington and secured his release. If Kay was at Palmyra during the war, perhaps he was a local irregular soldier. It is possible of course that he came to Palmyra after his release.

I wonder if he lived with Todd or if he farmed independently, or what?

What with other things on hand at this time, I'll have to leave these problems up to you.

Hurriedly but truly,

Miss Erlene Muder,  
Palmyra, Mo.

M. L.



June 20, 1940.

Hon. William H. Townsend,  
607 First National Bank Building,  
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Mr. Townsend:-

Can you tell me off-hand how I can get the most complete information about Samuel Blair Todd during his Kentucky days?

It seems that he moved to Palmyra, Missouri about 1856; and had some interesting experiences there.

I believe he was the son of James C. Todd and Mary Todd Lincoln's first cousin.

There is a family tradition that he went to Washington during the Civil War and secured the pardon of his brother-in-law, John Ray.

It occurred to me that you might be able to tell me off-hand how to proceed.

Yours very sincerely,

M.L.Houser.



June 20, 1940.

Miss Lydia Colby,  
Geneseo, Ill.

My dear Miss Colby:-

Several years ago, we met in Kansas City a delightfully cultured and aristocratic little old lady, Mrs. Lucie Todd Fulton, and she soon became "Aunt Lucie" to us.

Because I am a Lincoln fan and her father, Samuel Blair Todd was Mary Lincoln's cousin, I became interested in him -- with Aunt Lucie's approval.

Miss Arlene Muder, Palmyra, Mo., has been doing some very clever researching there for me. In a recent letter, she wrote:

Friends of mine here, Mrs. Grace Macomber and her daughter, referred me to Miss Lydia Colby in Geneseo, Illinois, who, they believe, has done much research in the Todd family.

Now, I am wondering if you have uncovered anything about the said S. Blair Todd, son of James C. Todd, a brother of Mary Lincoln's father. If so, would you permit either myself or Miss Muder to call on you at your convenience for the purpose of securing such information as you might be willing to give regarding Mr. Todd and his wife and his relations with Mary Todd Lincoln?

You may be sure, I believe, that any information you may give us will be thoroughly appreciated both by us and the surviving members of the Todd family.

Very sincerely,

M. L. Houser.

June 20, 1940.

Mrs. W. B. Bement,  
7379 Marietta Ave.,  
Maplewood, Mo.

My dear Mrs. Bement:-

Several years ago, we met and became very fond of Mrs. Lucie Todd Fulton, Kansas City, Mo.

Because her father was Mary Lincoln's first cousin and lived during the Civil War at Palmyra, Mo., I became much interested in the circumstances, and requested Miss Erlene Muder, a very clever newspaper woman of Palmyra, to find out what might be disclosed by the records there.

Mrs. Fulton has given me such help as she could, but her advanced age and delicate health suggest that I bother her as little as possible.

My interest arises from our love for "Aunt Lucie" and because I am a 32 degree Lincoln fan.

Miss Muder believes you are Mrs. Fulton's sister, but her informant, Miss Montana Rice, seems to have lost track of you a few years ago.

Mrs. Fulton believes that there is a family tradition that during the war your father went to Washington to secure the release of Dr. John Ray, your mother's brother who had been captured as a Confederate prisoner or arrested as a Southern sympathizer. Can you tell us any particulars about that?

If this letter reaches you, we, and I am sure Mrs. Fulton, will appreciate any information you may give us about your parents, your father's relations with Mary Todd Lincoln, and the Ray incident.

A picture of your father which Mrs. Fulton sent to me indicates he looked the part of an aristocratic Kentuckian.

Very sincerely,

M.L.Houser,

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

COLUMBIA

June 29, 1940

Miss Erlene Muder  
Palmyra  
Missouri

Dear Miss Muder:

I have your letter of June 22, in regard to Samuel Blair Todd of Marion county and a tradition concerning his visit to Washington D. C. in 1862 or 1863 in the interest of a brother-in-law named Dr. Kay.

I have had a search made through a number of histories and biographical volumes in our Library, but regret that we have been unable to find any information which would enable you to verify the tradition.

I am very sorry indeed that we are unable to find this information for you. If we should later chance upon anything throwing light upon this subject, I shall of course write you of it.

Sincerely,

*Floyd C. Shoemaker*  
Secretary

FCS:SG







THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

M. L. Houston,  
Box 3-5  
Peoria,  
Ill.



Palmyra Missouri  
November 18, 1940.

Mr. M. L. Houser  
Leoria, Ill.,

Dear Mr. Houser:

I regret being delayed in sending the few items collected this summer, and hope there may still be of use.

My health was bad all summer, retarding my work, and since becoming bedfast many weeks ago, have had to abandon all my activities, of course. Just now, I am recuperating from a major operation performed four weeks ago.

However, I am sending what I have.

Mrs. J. J. Lucke whose forebearers were neighbors of the Todds, handed me a clipping from a local newspaper announcing Mrs. Todd's death. You will find it as she died - bearing no indication of date. She would like to have it returned at your convenience.

(Houser - 2)

In an interview with Miss Montana Rice, she informed me that it was her impression that said Mr. Kay, to whom her mother was engaged, was never a permanent resident here and was not connected with the local Confederates. His stay here, she believed, might be termed an "extended visit" such as was common in days of slow transportation. This brother-in-law of B. Todd was not a "doctor" she was certain, and she had never heard of "Mr. Kay" being mentioned in connection with the family.

Several persons contacted remembered the family but added no information to that already received.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Ida Kelly of Palmyra gave the following recollection:

When local slave owners were having difficulties with runaways, S. Blair Todd was appointed to see that all darkies in his community were home by



Ten p. m.

One evening a big black fellow overstayed his hours and was accosted by Mr. Todd, as he neared home.

As an Officer, Mr. Todd explained it was his duty to whip him. The slave answered,

"Yoh sah, ah knows, but won't you please give me a piece of Chewin' tobacco, first."

Being a kind man, Mr. Todd laid down the whip to comply with the request, whereupon, the sly darkey "lit out" in a run, leaving his would-be punisher staring in amazement.

The community laughed a great deal over Blair Todd's "fooling".

Mrs. Kelly cited that the Todds were favorites of everyone - especially the young people who loved to gather at the hospitable home. "They were fine,

(Linner-4)

Aristocratic people, she said.

As to the monument, I am sending a booklet found among odds and ends at the Spectator office. Mrs. A. M. Sprague, president of the Palmyra U. D. C. Chapter, could give me little definite information, but stated the statue caused a terrific uproar - so much, it was smuggled in and erected at night. I expect to learn more in this regard when I am again able to be out. There is a surprising lack of knowledge in this respect, considering it an event of comparatively recent years.

Mrs. Sprague said, also, that the chapter has no list of Confederate soldiers, except those connected with members of the U. D. C.

I hope that ere this, Mrs. Bement has sent you valuable information.

One of my former professors

(Houser - 5)

once said, "No excuse is worth making", but I feel in this case I owe you an explanation.

I am feeling fairly well, now, and am looking forward to better health than I have known for many years. My operation was not particularly serious, but my long illness preceding it makes my recovery slow. Of course I am impatient to be out.

If you are still desirous of further information, please let me know.

Yours truly;

Erlene Thuder.



## MARRIED.

Married, on Thursday, the 4th inst., by Rev. Mr. Carrack, in Menard county, Ill., Mr. GEORGE A. BEELER, of Miami, Saline county, Mo., (formerly of this county,) and Mrs. SUSAN RACKER, of Menard county, Ill.

Married, on the 3d inst., at the National Hotel, Hannibal, Mo., by Rev. H. A. Bourland, Mr. ELIAS M. TULEY and Miss SARAH CLARK, all of Marion county.

The dollar received; and we wish the happy pair a perpetual honeymoon. Joy to the household, and prosperity attend their footsteps. Variety is the spice of life, and sometimes there's a heap of spice in it.

## OBITUARY.

"Lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided."

Thus lived and died the two sisters, Mrs. M. E. and Mrs. LUCY HICKERSON. These sisters were born in Fauquier county, Va.;—the former, May 4th, 1801; the latter, March 3d, 1803. Only twenty hours intervened between their deaths. Mrs. Lucy Hickerson died February 23d, and Mrs. M. E. Hickerson, February 24th, 1875. As women and ladies, they were noble types of the past generation. Their lives and examples reflect honor upon female character. They lived and died in the belief and hope of immortality and eternal life beyond the gloom, silence and corruption of the grave. They were buried in the same grave, where we placed them to await "the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust."

Morte carent animae; semperque priore relicta  
Sede, novis domibus habitant, vivuntque receptae.

"Beyond the flight of time,  
Beyond the reign of death,  
There surely is some blessed clime  
Where life is not a breath,  
Nor life's affections transient fire,  
Whose sparks fly upward and expire."

J. S. G.

Died, in the city of Chillicothe, at the residence of her husband, Mr. S. Blair Todd, Mrs. SALLIE KAY TODD, in the fortieth year of her age. She was intellectual and accomplished; a friend to religion and humanity. She lived beloved by all who knew her, and died in hope of the glory of God. She was a member of the Christian Church twenty-eight years.

Died, in this city, on Tuesday last, the 9th inst., ALBERT S., infant son of Edward F. and Mary S. Jameson, aged ten months and five days.

"He died before his infant soul  
Had ever burnt with wrong desires—  
Had ever spurned at heaven's control,  
Or ever quenched its sacred fires."

"He died to sin; he died to care;  
But for a moment felt the rod;  
Then, rising on the viewless air,  
Spread his light wings, and soared to God."

Wants Mrs. Fulton.

Mrs. Lucy Fulton, teacher of room 1 in our central school has been offered a similar position in the public schools of Kansas City, at a salary of \$65 per month, beginning November 1. Mrs. Fulton of course would like to accept the place, bringing as it does an increase of salary and a little better field for work, and has placed the matter of her resignation before the board. As a teacher of little tots, Mrs. Fulton has few equals, and her success has attracted the attention of prominent educators all over the state. The board, it is understood, will refuse to accept her resignation, and will make every possible effort to keep her in the Chillicothe schools. The MAIL AND STAR joins the patrons of the school in the hope that the board will be unyielding in its refusal.



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Mrs. Lucy B. Fulton, Rec. Sec., Chillicothe.  
J. A. Merrill, Treasurer, Kansas City.  
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3

Missouri

# State Teachers' Association.

*Meeting at Jefferson City, Dec. 28, 9 A. M., to Dec. 30, 12 M., 1897.*



mm

129

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MRS. D. M. CAREY  
SECOND VICE-WAR MOTHER

MRS. ARTHUR SCHOPPER  
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MRS. E. A. FACKERT  
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KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

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MRS. LUCIE B. FULTON  
WAYS AND MEANS

' Attached is a history of the rural school attended by the children of S. Blair Todd, according to Mr. Dan Kern. Although the name is now "Todd School", everyone associates the nomen with the George Todd Family who lived on the acreage adjoining the S. Blair Todd farm in township 58 (his first residence in the county), on the south. The heirs of George Todd living here know of no relationship between the two men. A spring on the George Todd farm, now owned by T. K. DuBois, is called "Toda Spring". No efforts put forward could bring from anyone the opinion that S. B. was the inspiration for the naming of these two places.

**Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the  
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

**For contact information, go to [www.LincolnCollection.org](http://www.LincolnCollection.org).**

M. J. HOUSER  
BOX 54  
TODD, MO.

TODD

Addresses:

Glenn Todd, Palmyra, Mo. -- no kin.

✓ Miss Erlene Muder, Palmyra, Mo. -- good girl, pub. office. "Spectator."

Lucie B. Todd, Swoup Parkway, Nettleton Home, K.C.

Samuel B. Todd, Palmyra, 1856. *Lemon Place, Dave White Place. 1900*  
*Paducah, Ky*

Dr. Lewis B. Kay, brother-in-law. Chillicothe, Mo. ~~Louisville~~ *Paducah, Ky*

? Mrs. Elizabeth Wehmeyer, Palmyra, Mo.

Write:

✓ Frank Oliver, ~~Palmyra, Mo.~~ <sup>between</sup> Clay St., Chillicothe, Mo.

✓ Moses Hutchinson, Chillicothe, Mo.

✓ Mr. W.J. Gunby, Abstract Office, Chillicothe, Mo.

✓ Mrs. Gilbert H. Reynolds, 1025 Locust St., Chillicothe, Mo. Asst LIB.

✓ Miss Feye L. Stewart, Stewart Abstract & Inv. Co., Chillicothe, Mo.

*Marion dies. abt. 1875.*

S. W. COR. SQUARE

TELEPHONE 131

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ABSTRACT AND INVESTMENT CO.

CHILLICOTHE, MISSOURI

S. W. COR. SQUARE

TELEPHONE 131

*Miss Faye L.*

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CHILLICOTHE, MO.



Lucie Todd Fulton, Nettleton Home, Swoup Parkway.  
Nov. 1859.

S. Blair Todd, Father, Cousin of Mary Todd.  
1856 married Sally Andrew Kay. Moved to Palmyra, Mo.  
Colonial home about four miles from Palmyra.  
Owned slaves.

After war, moved to Chillicothe.  
How about actions during war?

Dr. Lewis B. Kay, mother's brother, Lexington, Ky.

Practiced at Chillicothe, Mo.

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Practiced at Chillicothe, Mo.

Colonel's 219 E. 73rd St.

See card. Book to read English

Elizabeth W. Meyer, Lib.  
Palmyra, Mo.

Write

to Frank Oliver,  
Clay St, Belview  
Chillicothe Book and M. E. Church  
J. Moser Hutchinson Chillicothe  
Fred Cornum, Chillicothe,

Slav Todd,  
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*6020 Wyandotte St.*  
*Kansas City, Mo.*



Red - known Place,

Dark White Place

H. M. V. occurs North River

Dr. Ray. ~~1875~~ 1876 <sup>Produced</sup> 1877

Todd - Dec 5 56-70

Chickadee 1872

Winter Dec 1875  
Dr. Ray 1st before shot

S. B. Todd died Oct 1910

Black & Rose Horns

Gray Eagle.



Lucy Bryan Todd

*Dunlap*

Chillicothe, Mo.



original photographs housed in LN Photo Collection



Samuel Blair Todd-

West Lexington, Kentucky,  
in 1856 - Came to Marion County,  
Missouri; on a farm about  
four miles from Palmyra -  
a town located about twelve  
miles from Hannibal - and  
equal distances from Quincy,  
Illinois. - Went to Chillicothe,  
Missouri in 1870.



Lucie B. Todd







2,  
The farm home of S. B.  
Todd purchased from  
W. H. Lee and wife  
as it appears at present.

A.

First farm home of S. Blair  
Todd, 4 miles North of Palmyra,  
where he moved in 1855,  
following his arrival here from  
Ivy.

2.  
Another view of "A."

(A.)

First home of S. B. Todd,  
4 miles North of Palmyra.

(C.)

The farm home which  
S. B. Todd purchased from  
W. H. Lee and wife. This is  
as it appeared before it was  
remodeled about 7 years ago.



# POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS



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Monument in Palmyra. No.  
sent to the museum of  
natural history during the  
last war.





